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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 52 | Berkeley, Calif. | May 1970 | Number 5

"WHAT IS PROGRESS?"

An economist and an ecologist will join our National Audubon President, Dr. Elvis J. Stahr, to make up a trio of outstanding speakers for the first formal session of the Audubon convention in Seattle **May 16.**

The guest speakers will develop the convention theme, "Question for America: What IS Progress?". The economist, Dr. Dewayne Kreager, will consider the question of continued economic growth, while the ecologist, Dr. Lawrence B. Slobodkin, will talk about the limits man must set in exploiting our planet.

Dr. Tom Harvey and Mrs. Nancy Holmes of Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society will address the convention on the subject "The South San Francisco Wildlife Refuge vs. The Jetport: The Everglades Battle of the West". This will be an appeal for support from the National Audubon Society for the proposed refuge and against the San Jose Jetport.

Headquarters for this Audubon Convention will be Washington Plaza Hotel. Registration is on **May 14** and the opening event will be a day of field trips on **May 15.** For further information: National Audubon Convention, 555 Audubon Place, P.O. Box 4446, Sacramento, Ca. 95825.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

Our cherished dream of a South San Francisco Bay National Wildlife refuge is still far from realization. The Bureau of the Budget at last reports still withheld its feasibility report on means of acquisition of refuge lands. Despite Dept. of the Interior approval of such a refuge Congressional hearings were delayed by Budget's inaction. We understand there are ways of moving this Bureau—and of achieving further steps toward creation of the refuge—if enough Senators and Congressmen become convinced of the growing public demand for action.

A further obstacle to this refuge as outlined would be development of a major jet airport for San Jose. Incorporation of little Alviso with San Jose two years ago almost removed a troublesome pocket of resistance by Alviso open-space lovers. These same individuals are contesting the validity of the incorporation election, however, and have persuaded the State Supreme Court to hear their case this May Do we *need* another major airport?

Boards of Supervisors from San Mateo to Sonoma have been confronted at recent hearings by large, articulate and well-versed numbers of conservationists, ecologists and coastline protectors. Press, TV and radio have been generous in reporting these hearings.

Sonoma County Supervisors were so overwhelmed by the opposition at their March 31st hearing on the proposed Russian River-at-Jenner 20 to 40 year gravel dredging they announced another hearing in Santa Rosa at **3 p.m. on May 5.** This allowed time for a hearing by the State Environmental Quality Council on April 16.

San Mateo Supervisors meeting at Redwood City on March 26 couldn't hear all the protesters against the proposed Pescadero Creek dam construction that would flood 60 acres of Portola State Redwood Park. They scheduled another hearing at Pescadero High School at **10 a.m. on May 20.** The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has submitted alternatives to the high Worley Flat Dam which would invade the park. They estimate flooding damage to the Pescadero area averages at present some $92,000 per year.

Sea Otters are news again, with the group known as "Friends of the Sea Otter" circulating petitions against Senator Grunsky's bill (Senate Bill 442) which would authorize a limited permit control under auspices of the Dept. of Fish and Game. Live-trapping and transplanting of surplus otters to the California North Coast hasn't been successful. Abalone fishermen have been complaining bitterly of otter inroads on the red abalone beyond the boundaries of the refuge. Your Chairman risked his reputation among other otter-lovers (he loves otters, too!) while going slow and getting several authoritative opinions, including one from a Fish and Game spokesman. A noted California mammalogist and an eminent game management authority both expressed opposition to this particular legislation.

Down in huge, agricultural San Luis Obispo County it is the "seeding" of farm lands by plane with the lethal 1080 poison for ground squirrel control that has conservationists besieging the Board of Supervisors. We recently visited Rancher-Conservationist Ian McMillan and got his views on this subject. The McMillans mourn the passing of the coyotes from their Shandon Hills due to this chain-reaction poison, which may destroy other valuable predators and harmless (even useful) small rodents. Squirrels can be controlled by much safer, specific poisons, they point out. (Wish we could persuade the McMillans to explain all this to the implacable Contra Costa County squirrel poisoners!)

PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*

"BUTTERFLY LIFE STUDIES" ON MAY 14

Victor and Evelyn Mann will show their beautiful slides of California butterflies at our Golden Gate Audubon Society meeting on **Thursday, May 14** at **7:30 p.m.** in the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland.

Mr. and Mrs. Mann have photographed butterflies during the com-

plete life cycle from egg to adult, and they will present some unusual close-ups.

A no-host dinner will start at **6:30 p.m.** in Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Avenue at Perkins Street, one block from the Natural Science Center. Visitors are welcome at all Golden Gate Audubon meetings.

FIELD TRIPS FOR MAY-JUNE 8

Friday, May 8, Nature Area, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley, to look for migrating Western Tanagers and summer residents. Meet in the parking lot at the entrance to the Nature Area at **8:30 a.m.** Bring lunch. Leader, Mrs. Vi Homem, 339-1886.

Saturday, May 9 (as announced in April *Gull*) Mt Diablo State Park for the elusive Black-chinned, Rufous-crowned, and Sage Sparrows and other summer and permanent residents. Meet at **8:15 a.m.** at the South Toll Gate on the mountain. Bring lunch. Leaders, Harry and Betty Adamson, 283-2164. (*The Florida Naturalist* of October 1969 published an illustrated article about Harry Curieux Adamson, the West Coast's outstanding wildlife artist. Harry designed our Golden Gate Audubon emblem for The Gull and membership brochures.)

Friday, June 5-Sunday, June 7, Yosemite National Park, *For field trip participants only* we have reserved a small number of cabin units for the nights of Friday, June 5, and Saturday, June 6. Reservation information was in the April *Gull*. In order to help defray the leaders' expenses there will be a $1 charge for all adults attending this trip. **Meet at 7:45 a.m. Saturday** at the main post office in Government Center. **Our cars will depart promptly at 8 a.m.** Bring lunch. —MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman.*

THE SANTA CRUZ BIRD CLUB has scheduled an annual offshore trip to observe Black-footed Albatross and other pelagic birds on **Monday, June 8.** The boat leaves Stagnaro Landing on Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf at **7:30 a.m.,** returning about noon. Fare: $2.00. For reservations write immediately to Leavitt McQuesten, 120 Otis St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060 and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

E. B. REGIONAL PARKS' NATURALIST PROGRAM

Each spring and summer the Interpretive Department of the East Bay Regional Park District presents a series of public programs on weekends.

Briones Regional Park, Bear Creek Road—"Discover Nature" Walks, **Sunday through May 31,** 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring lunch.

Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley—Nature Walks, **Sundays to June 28,** 3:30 to 5 p.m. (Lunch Hikes, June 7-28, 12 to 2:30.)

Alameda Beach Park, McKay Ave.—Walk Along San Francisco Bay, **Sundays to May 31,** 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Meet at the flagpole on the lawn. Bring lunch. A Workshop in Marine Ecology will be offered on Sundays, **May 3 through May 31,** 2:30 to 5:30, for adults and high school students. Fee: $3. Enrollment limited. Phone 524-1034.

Redwood Regional Park, Redwood Rd., Oakland—Exploring the Redwoods, family lunch hikes, Sundays, **July 5 to July 26,** 11:30 to 2 p.m. and exploring the Stream Trail, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Anthony Chabot Regional Park, Lake Chabot Rd.—Ecology of Lake Chabot, a guided boat tour for the family aboard the "Chabot Queen" Sundays from **August 2 to August 30,** 12 to 2:30. Enrollment limited. Phone 524-1034. "Ways of Nature" Sundays, **August 2 to August 30,** 3:30 to 5 p.m. Meet in the picnic area near the snack stand and learn about Lake Chabot.

Sunol Valley Regional Park, Geary Rd.—Star Parties, one hour after sunset, **May 9, June 6, July 4, August 1, Sept. 5, Oct. 3.** (In case of cancellation due to overcast skies alternate dates will be May 23, June 13, July 11, August 8, Oct. 24. Meet at Las Encinas Meadow telescope pier.) **Sundays to May 31:** "Lester Litterbug Learns His Lesson" a puppet show at the Old Green Barn from 1:30 to 2:15, and Ways of Nature, a program on Bay Area animals after the puppet show from 2:30 to 3:30. A Spring Discovery Hike will be led from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Coyote Hills Regional Park, near Fremont-Newark area—Lunch Hikes, **Saturdays, to June 13,** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring lunch and meet in the main parking lot. Indian Mound Tours, **Saturdays through May 30,** 2:30 to 4 p.m. Meet at the small parking lot on right of entrance road.

AUDUBON NATURE TRAINING PROGRAM

California State College at Hayward has included Audubon Nature Training as an extension course for which credit may be received—one more professional recognition of the academic standard of our trail-blazing program in urban ecology.

Phyllis Lindley, Instructor for the Audubon Nature Training program, is author of a recently released Nature Bulletin, one of a series of National Audubon Teaching Aids. Entitled "Natural Resources in the City", it points out how the natural world can be opened up to a city child through the climate, astronomy, plants and plant products, animal, animal products, and animals used as food. The "how to" is illustrated in a detailed look at ladybugs—their growth, metamorphosis, locomotion, etc. Other investigations are suggested, and a brief recommended reading list is included.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH, BOLINAS LAGOON

Under joint sponsorship of Bay Area Audubon Societies to protect a major rookery of Common Egrets and Great Blue Herons.

Interviews for men and women wishing to enroll in the 1970-71 program of the Volunteer Council of Audubon Canyon Ranch will be held

between 10 a.m. and noon, **Monday, May 25** and **Thursday, May 28** at the Volunteer Bureau of Marin, 723 A Street, San Rafael. Applicants should call 383-1644 to make appointments for interviews.

This year's course, the second of three sponsored by the Junior League of San Francisco, will probably be given in Sausalito. The sixteen week program of lectures and field trips will again be conducted by the Natural Science Education Resources under the direction of Mrs. Rembert Kingsley. The course will train volunteers to work with school children first in the classroom and later at the ranch. The program will deal with the natural history of the plants and animals associated with the varied ecological communities of ACR. The classes will be held on Wednesdays commencing October 7.

Hosts and hostesses are still needed to greet the public on weekends in **June** and **July**. To volunteer for this enjoyable job, please contact Kathy Higgs, 340 Esplanade, Apt. 20, Pacifica 94044; 355-6264.

OBSERVATIONS CALENDAR

March 4—*Indigo Bunting* at Marshall & Violet Jencks' feeder on Rawson St., Oakland and at nearby feeder of Mr. & Mrs. Donald Schino, Best Ave. (Deep blue with whitish underparts, about 4½" long, resembled molting bird in Pough's *Audubon Land Bird Guide.*) Visited the Jenck's feeder more than 20 times between March 4 and April 6, usually around 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. In April some of the white feathers were replaced by blue.

March 8—*Pileated Woodpecker* at Bon Tempe Lake and *Common Mergansers* on Lake Alpine, Marin Co.—Bill Pursell, Aubrey Burns.

March 8—*Slate-colored Junco* at Best Ave., Oakland—Vi & George Homem.

March 9—*Fulvous Tree Duck* still in Coyote Hills Regional Park. (Portland Audubon reported 9 Fulvous Tree Ducks Feb. 16 in the potholes in the sand dune area near the Menasha Pulp Mill north of the bridge crossing Coos Bay. They remained several days and were filmed for KCBY-TV. The Oregon Game Commission shot one for a specimen even though reports indicate their numbers are on the decrease.)

March 12—*Tropicbird* in Monterey Bay—Alan Baldridge.

March 21—*Hooded Oriole* male at Elinor Potter's hummingbird feeder on Henry St., Berkeley. This is her earliest arrival date. Hooded Orioles have nested in the sycamores on Henry St. for at least two years.

March 28—*Rufous-crowned Sparrows* on Oakland quarry trail during GGAS wildflower trip led by Marshall Jencks—Val & Bob DaCosta.

April 2—*Vesper Sparrow* near lower Mines Road bridge Livermore area (showing chestnut shoulder patch as well as white outer tail feathers and eye ring)—Elsie Roemer, Gertrude Bialos, Vi Homem.

April 4—*Dipper* on Alameda Creek, Sunol Valley Regional Park—Geo. Peyton.

April 7—*Hooded Merganser* female still on Jewel Lake, Tilden Reg Park.

ART FOR NATURE'S SAKE

In an effort to raise money to publicize one of the finest possibilities

for San Francisco Bay, The South Bay Wildlife Refuge Complex, the Committee for the Refuge will sell art work during the week of **April 27 to May 3** at the Whole World Wonder Fair at the Oakland Coliseum. The Fair hours: 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays, 10 to 10 Saturday, 10 to 9 Sunday.

Golden Gate Audubon has arranged for space for Bay Area Audubon Council use at this Fair. All BAAC members have been invited to participate. Our exhibits will cover Audubon Canyon Ranch, South Bay Wildlife Refuge, PRBO, and Audubon Nature Training Center.

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Warren Larson, Golden Gate Audubon Past President, won second place in the Newsweek-Bolex Motion Picture Contest—division of Space and Science—with his film of "Raphidian—An Insect Dragon."

ZERO POPULATION GROWTH, INC.

"Most conservationists seem to agree that the single most important problem we face is that of excessive population growth. Unless the current tide of humanity is stemmed, its demands upon this planet's limited resources will become so great that a substantial reduction in the quality of life and the environment will be unavoidable.

"A new and aggresive organization has been formed to attack this crucial problem head-on, Zero Population Growth, Inc. Through lobbying and advertising,ZPG advocates the free availability of all birth control methods and a tax structure which penalizes large families."—Sierra Club *Yodeler,* April 1970.

STIFF PENALTIES FOR OIL POLLUTERS

The nightmarish succession of big oil spills that have been fouling our coasts have at last caused such an outcry that the Congress has acted. The stiff penalties for polluters which were scuttled in the 90th Congress and which were stalled for almost four months in the present Congress, were finally passed.

This is Senator Muskie's Water Quality Improvement Act that contains the vitally needed liability provision, making owners of off-shore oil rigs responsible for pollution damages up to $14,000,000.

If this had been in effect earlier, the government could have moved to penalize Chevron Oil for its inexcusable violation of safety regulations at the Gulf of Mexico site. (The oil well fire and resultant leakage have been going on there since Feb. 10 and FWPCA staff people are investigating to see if Chevron is using an excessive amount of wildlife-harming chemicals in trying to sink the 85-square-mile slick.)

While some fines could have been levied against Chevron under existing laws, with tougher, more realistic penalties, it will be good business for oil companies to be extra careful.

However, the monster catastrophes are only a part of the oil pollution problem. The little day-to-day spills make up a large part of the estimated million metric tons—or perhaps even more—that are dumped into the seas of the world each year. So while legislation to severely penalize those responsible for major oil spills that make headlines is welcome, and long

overdue, the real problem is to stop the accidents and careless, or deliberate, spills that go unnoticed each day.—*Audubon Leader.*

The first report of the President's Panel on Oil Spills, 1969, is now available for 35¢ from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. 20402.

SANCTUARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts of remembrance were made to **Audubon Canyon Ranch:**

In Memory of	*Gift of*
Phyllis Zweigart	Ted and Ruth Dement
Jesse B. Warriner	Daniel Kotansky, Lear Siegler
Mrs. Carol Rigby	Mrs. Ellyn B. Beaty
Jean Strecker	Phoebe Jane Lindsey
In Appreciation of	
Vi Homem's Bird Slide Program	Seaview Spaders Garden Club, El Cerrito

DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

California B.P. (Before Pollution)—Early California paintings depicting the unspoiled scenery of the previous century will be displayed at the California Historical Society headquarters, 2090 Jackson St., San Francisco. Exhibit hours: 10 to 4, Tuesdays through Saturdays **beginning May 2** for four weeks. (No admission charge.)

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"Indian Uses of California Plants" will be described by Wayne Roderick on Tuesday, **May 12,** at 8 p.m. in the Oakland Museum Theater. Samples of Indian foods, dyes and fibers are used to supplement this discussion. Mr. Roderick is Senior Horticulturist for the U. C. Botanical Garden.

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Camp Denali, a wilderness camp on the northern boundary of Mt. Mckinley National Park will offer its Wilderness Workshop from **June 19 to June 29,** limited to 15 participants. No academic qualifications are necessary, but Workshop members will concentrate on learning about the ecology of the sub-arctic alpine terrain and its flora and fauna. Cost of the ten-day Wilderness Workshop is $300, including local transportation, room and board. Write to Wilderness Workshop, c/o Mrs. Hazel Wolf, 2216 Federal Avenue East, Seattle, Wash. 98102.

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The Colorado Field Ornithologist, Summer 1969, No. 6, lists a new book entitled *Birds in Western Colorado,* an annotated field list and travel guide for finding the best birding spots. It may be purchased for $1.75 from the Historical Museum and Institute of Western Colorado, 4th and Ute, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501.

The Eighth Annual Convention of Colorado Field Ornithologists (with Wilson Ornithological Society and the Cooper Ornithological Society) will be held in Fort Collins, **June 18-21.** For reservations write Dr. Ronald A. Ryder, College of Forestry and Natural Resources, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo. 80521.

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GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National $10 per yer, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately $2 per year.

High school & college student membership $6 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.